

MARIN COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

ROSS VALLEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION MINUTES AUGUST 28, 2003

Members Present: Hobart Bartshire, Peter Breen, Hal Brown, Vince Ceriello, Larry Chu, Wayne Cooper, Jerry Edelbrock, Michael Hooper, Lori Lopin, Joan Lundstrom, Phillip Rice, and Michelle Suggs

Members Absent: Niccolo Caldararo, Harry Schriebman, and Linda Siegel

Staff Present: Dean Powell, Marin County Department of Public Works; and Bonnie Nelson, Congestion Management Agency Consultant

Others: Debbie Stutsman, Town of San Anselmo Administrator; Carey Lando, Marin County Department of Public Works; Giovanni Lando; Nancy Weninger; and Steve Thompson

The meeting was convened at 4:07 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2 APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2003

M/s, Ceriello/Lopin, to approve the July 24, 2003 action minutes with a minor modification changing “bike lockers” to “bike shelters” on page 2. Motion passed unanimously (Brown, Edelbrock, and Suggs abstained).

3. PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL TRANSIT ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the Local Transit element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 40% of the sales tax revenues towards the Local Transit element; and (2) a sense of local transit needs in the community that should be given high priority in a new system.

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) whether Marin County contributes General Funds to the Marin County Transit District to partially fund local transit service; (2) the anticipated peak-hour and off-peak traffic impacts resulting from the Golden Gate Transit Scenario E service reductions; (3) the effectiveness of the suggested funding scenarios for allocating tax revenues to best manage anticipated traffic congestion impacts; (4) the merits of increasing service coverage (Scenario 3A) versus frequencies (Scenario 3B) in terms of managing congestion; (5) the cost effectiveness of the suggested funding scenarios for allocating tax revenues in terms of cost per rider; (6) whether any of the suggested sales tax transit funding scenarios would restore Scenario E service levels to current service frequencies; (7) whether the Marin County Transit District could consider contracting with other bus service providers, instead of Golden Gate Transit, for basic and local services; (8) how large an employer should be to successfully implement a Transportation Demand Management program; (9) the possibility of using Local Return funds to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles; (10) a possible negative impact on the other expenditure plan categories by setting a higher allocation of the sales tax funds for Local Transit; (11) the importance of changing residents’ perception of public transit, starting with children; (12) the “Ride & Roll” students ride free program; (13) designing transit services to meet student needs, such as routing and bell time arrivals, and whether Golden Gate Transit has worked with schools, including local colleges, on these issues; (14) the need for ridematching programs, safe pathways, and small shuttles to connect people to transit services; and (15) whether ridership numbers would increase if discounted ticket booklets were offered for local transit services. (Information on most of these topics can be found in the “Frequently Asked Questions #3” handout in the September staff report packet.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the Local Transit element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements. (Several committee members volunteered that an allocation in the 40% range seemed appropriate, but some members indicated that a slightly lower allocation might be desirable.)
- Local transit needs identified included:
 - Physical improvements, such as bike racks on buses, weather-protected shelters at bus stops, and safe access improvements to bus stops, to encourage alternative modes to transit
 - Local shuttles that connect community focal points, such as Marin General Hospital or College of Marin to downtown San Rafael
- Other consensus feedback included:
 - Local Transit programs and projects of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan should be designed to manage congestion and increase mobility for the community.
 - A portion of the Local Return funds should be used to enhance transit programs and projects, such as local shuttles.

4. FOLLOW-UP TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Vice-Chair Lundstrom noted that the City of Larkspur is recommending to the appropriate organizations that the Safe Routes to School Program implement two school carpool demonstration projects during the current school year at a local elementary school and high school to measure the effectiveness of a carpooling program to reduce local school traffic.

There was a brief discussion on two recent editorials published in Marin Scope Newspapers (*Ross Valley Reporter*, *Twin Cities Times*) and the *Marin Independent Journal* written by Dick Spotswood and Mike Arnold, respectively, concerning work on the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. Staff noted that the editorials would be responded to starting in September in an effort to educate the public about the draft plan and work of the committees, provide a possible schedule leading to a ballot measure, and encourage public participation in finalizing the draft plan.

Staff also noted that the October workshop with the Joint Committee has been rescheduled tentatively for October 18th. The location and the time have not been determined yet.

6. CONFIRM/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The next committee meeting is on Tuesday, September 23rd, at 3:00 p.m. in the San Anselmo Council Chamber. It was noted that it may be necessary to schedule a second meeting next month in order to hear the last presentation on the Local Return element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan and develop, synthesize, and finalize committee recommendations for all elements.

Chair Breen adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.